

REMARKS

In response to the outstanding office action:

[1-2] The Examiner's remarks are noted.

[3] The claims were objected to. This objection is believed to be based on a mis-reading due to text blurred by fax transmission. The claims are now submitted via the mail room without blur. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

[4] Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended in view of the Examiner's remarks. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

[5] Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kichury (U.S. Patent 6,057,850) in view of Teo (U.S. Patent 6,385,349). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Response To Arguments. The Examiner answers the Applicants' arguments for claims 1-8 by stating (page 8, line 5) that the Applicants relied upon a feature, namely, comparing the image with the texture mapping within the spatial coordinate system to extract overlapped polygons, that was not recited in the claims. Claim 9, which *already* recited this feature literally, is not rejected under §103.

Claim 1 is now amended to recite this feature literally, so that the Examiner's stated reason for the Applicants' arguments being unpersuasive is moot. Allowance of claim 1 is requested on this basis.

Additional Arguments. The Examiner states (page 4) that Kichury discloses "extracting overlapped polygons from the image with the texture mapping within the spatial coordinate system(col. 5: 11-15 and col. 6: 13-16. Note, since the images are "bump-mapped" images representative of the surface of the 3D model, the Office interprets that the 3D model polygons are inherently "extracted" from the image)".

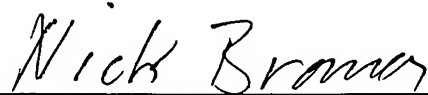
With respect, a careful reading of Kichury relative to claim 1 will reveal that there is no mention, disclosure, or teaching of a step of comparing the image with the texture mapping within the spatial coordinate system to extract overlapped polygons. Claim 1 recites overlapped polygons of the image which are polygons located in the same coordinate in a common spatial

coordinate system as that of the texture mapping. Kichury, however, only discloses that nine different bump-mapped images of a representative surface of the geometrical model are created (col. 5: 11-15) and overlapping drawn objects and their characteristics are to have the same depth values (col. 6: 13-26). The Applicants' overlapped polygons are not equivalent to the disclosed overlapping drawn objects. Furthermore, Kichury does not mention, disclose, or teach any step of comparing an image with texture mapping. As a result, the Applicants' claimed step of "using the pixel intensity of the overlapped polygons to compute a statistics mean for adjusting the pixel intensity of the image accordingly" is impossible with the overlapping drawn objects of Kichury.

For the reasons stated above, it is the Applicants' belief that Kichury and Teo do not teach or suggest all the limitations of instant claims 1-8 of the present application. It is therefore Applicants' belief that instant claims 1-18 are allowable over the cited reference. Insofar as all claims depend from instant claims 1 and 9, it is Applicants' belief that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,



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